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uniformly a diameter of just $\frac{1}{8000}$ of an inch, and being wholly free from viscosity. The Attus is found at this season of the year on rail fences.

Professor Agassiz presented a paper upon the family of the *Cyprinodonts*.

Three hundred and seventieth meeting.

November 2, 1852. — MONTHLY MEETING.

The PRESIDENT in the chair.

Professor Felton reminded the Academy of the recent death of the Hon. Daniel Webster, Secretary of State of the United States, and Fellow of this body ; and, after an eloquent tribute to his memory, offered the following resolutions, which, after being seconded by Mr. F. C. Gray, and advocated by Mr. Parsons, were unanimously adopted.

“ *Resolved*, That the Fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences deeply lament the decease of their late Associate, the Hon. Daniel Webster, Secretary of State of the United States. By his death the country is bereaved of her ablest practical statesman, and profoundest political philosopher. Letters and eloquence have lost a most distinguished ornament. Science is deprived of a great and versatile mind, which understood its progress, appreciated its value, recognized its dignity, and mastered its results in the midst of professional labors and public cares, to which his energies were devoted almost to the last moment of his life.

“ *Resolved*, That the Fellows of this Academy tender to the family of their late eminent Associate, their most respectful sympathy in this private and public calamity.”

Three hundred and seventy-first meeting.

November 10, 1852. — QUARTERLY MEETING.

The PRESIDENT in the chair.

The Corresponding Secretary laid before the Academy letters from the Royal Society of London, and the Academies of Göttingen, Berlin, Vienna, and Munich, referring to publications forwarded to the Academy.

A communication from the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries in Copenhagen, containing circulars relating to the collection of materials for works upon the history of the Old Northern Literature, was laid before the Academy.

Dr. William P. Dexter was elected a Fellow of the Academy.

M. Brown Léquard, of Paris, personally made the following communication.

He stated that he had succeeded in producing muscular irritability, i. e. life in the muscles, after decomposition had commenced, by means of injections of blood, repeated every two or three hours. But the fact of which he wished to speak this evening was quite different. He had found that muscles separated from the body might be maintained in a state of rigidity by the injection of chloroform. After an interval of several days, blood might be again introduced, repelling the chloroform, and reinducing the irritability of the muscles. In one case, after the lapse of ten days, muscular life had been restored by the injection of blood, though the amount of blood required was much greater than after a smaller interval. Irritability might also sometimes be introduced, though more rarely.

In reply to a question of Dr. Pickering, M. Léquard stated that the blood must be as fresh as possible, though it was capable of producing the effect when an hour old. In one case in Paris, he had found that blood which had been drawn for two hours had sufficed.

With regard to the proper kind of blood for transfusion, he had found that fibrine was not necessary, so that the operation can be performed with defibrinated blood. Bischoff had discovered, that, in those cases where the blood of one animal was poison to another, this quality was due solely to the fibrine, so that defibrinated blood may be used in all cases for transfusion without deleterious results. There is another interesting fact, namely, that animals have more fibrine in their blood when they have not been fed for a long time, than under ordinary circumstances.

Dr. Samuel Kneeland was elected Recording Secretary, in place of Dr. B. A. Gould, who resigned.

Three hundred and seventy-second meeting.

December 7, 1852. — MONTHLY MEETING.

The PRESIDENT in the chair.

Professor Winlock, of Kentucky, made a verbal report on errors he had discovered in Bradley's and Bessel's Observations on the sun, illustrated by diagrams.

Professor Peirce observed that this was a very remarkable application of the method of least squares, leading to the discovery of such a small difference between the printed observations and the true result. He gave other examples of the detection of errors by the application of this method, showing that even errors are regulated by laws. He remarked, that, with all our accuracy, the diameter of the sun is not yet known; the best way to ascertain this is by an eclipse, but even this is open to doubts.

Professor Peirce alluded to several errors attributed to him in some foreign journals; — the idea that the orbit of the comet of 1689 was the same as that of 1843 had been erroneously attributed to him. He believed also that astronomers will yet acknowledge that there are two solutions to the perturbing actions of Neptune on Uranus.

Dr. J. Wyman offered some remarks on the internal structure of the cranium of the mastodon. He had compared the foramina through which the nerves escape from the cranial cavity with those in the skull of the elephant; those transmitting the trigeminus and facial nerves were of similar proportions in the two, and tended to show that the mastodon, as well as the elephant, was provided with a trunk, the large size of the nerves indicating a corresponding development of muscular fibre and of sensitive surface in the face.

The form of the cranial cavity, which has not been described, corresponded with the extraordinary type met with in